

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A material for absorbing hydrophobic water-immiscible liquids comprises lignocellulosic plant material which has been rendered relatively more absorbent to hydrophobic water-immiscible liquids by esterification of hydroxyl groups in the lignin of the lignocellulose material. The esterification in one aspect is by acetylation of the hydroxyl groups. Absorbing articles and methods for use with hydrophobic water-immiscible liquids are also disclosed.